

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 099092

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, NP

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL EVEREST EXPEDITION

REF: KATHMANDU 1594

1. IN CONSIDERING LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS OF REPORTING EXPEDITION, NEED AS PRECISE AN ASSESSMENT AS POSSIBLE OF HOW STORIES COULD BE DISPATCHED. NEWSPAPER WOULD PROBABLY SEND 2-3 DISPATCHES PER WEEK.

2. BEST ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE RADIO LINK BASE CAMP-KATHMANDU. JERSTAD ADVISES SEVERAL EXPEDITIONS HAVE HAD THIS TYPE LINK. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY, MT. TRAVEL ASSESSMENT ABILITY TO GET NECESSARY PERMISSION. ALSO HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE, I.E., WHEN COULD EXPEDITION ASSURE NEWSPAPER OF FEASIBILITY THIS ALTERNATIVE.

3. ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE RADIO LINK BASE CAMP TO NAMCHE OR OTHER INTERMEDIATE STATION THEN TO KATHMANDU. IS THERE RADIO AT JAPANESE HOTEL? IF PERMISSION COULD BE OBTAINED, COULD PERSON BE HIRED TO TAKE DOWN AND TRANSMIT DISPATCHES AT INTERMEDIATE STATION?

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4. A THIRD ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE COMBINATION OF RUNNER

AND AIR, I.E., DISPATCH WRITTEN AT BASE CAMP AND PHYSICALLY TAKEN TO NEAREST TELEX FACILITY.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON (A) THE ALTERNATIVES WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE DISPATCH FROM BASE CAMP TO KATHMANDU IN LATE AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, (B) THE TIME CONSUMED AND (C) THE RELIABILITY OF THE ALTERNATIVE. QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED TO EXPEDITION INCLUDE:

A. WHAT AIR FACILITIES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM END AUGUST ON, E.G., HOW EARLY ARE STOL FLIGHTS FROM JAPANESE HOTEL POSSIBLE, FLIGHTS FROM LUKLA, ETC. ARE THERE OTHER AIR FACILITIES SHORT OF KATHMANDU, E.G., PHA FLU, WHICH WOULD BE OPEN?

B. COULD HELICOPTER OR PLANE BE CHARTERED FOR PURPOSE OF PICKING UP DISPATCHES IN LUKLA OR PHA FLU AND TAKING THEM TO KATHMANDU, AND AT WHAT COST?

C. IS THERE ANY TELEX TRANSMISSION FACILITY OUTSIDE OF KATHMANDU? HOW ARE COMMUNICATIONS MADE TO JAPANESE HOTEL?

D. IN REFTTEL PARA 4, ONE TO 12 DAY PERIOD MENTIONED FOR DISPATCH BY RUNNER. WHAT CAUSES VARIATION? IS 12 DAY FIGURE LONGEST TIME TO GET DISPATCH TO KATHMANDU?

E. HOW RELIABLE WOULD RUNNER SYSTEM BE? SISCO

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